



Congratulations... You did it!

By Sgt. 1st Class Trudie Cooke

In October Col. Richard Maxon, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, kicked off the Arizona National Guard Holiday Canned Food Drive. The event was sponsored by Channel 3 TV, in the hopes of raising one million cans of food by Thanksgiving. The food was given to four Phoenix-based food banks.

"Our agency goal was 28,000 cans of food," Maxon said. "We exceeded our goal."

A total of 33,796 cans were donated by the agency. The Arizona Army National Guard, Air National Guard and the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs contributed to the canned food drive. There were 109 individuals who earned the 100 Can Club award.

The 257th Engineer Detachment was the top giver. They set a goal of 80 cans and achieved 1,020 cans for 1275%. This small unit received a pizza party during their Inactive Duty Train-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette

The Arizona Army National Guard Command Staff cooked and served a barbecue meal to the members of the 385th Attack Group and their families who raised 2,231 cans of food. The barbecue was a reward for achieving the second highest number of cans during the Holiday Canned Food Drive.

ing/Drill weekend on Dec. 12. Maxon and the new Chief of Staff, Col. Raymond Bodin were present to honor the unit.

On Dec 5, 1999, Maxon and Bodin, awarded the second place to the 385th Attack Regiment by holding a barbecue at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 hanger and serving the soldiers and their families. The 385th set a goal of 560 cans. They achieved 2,231 cans for 398.39%.

"I would like to see us partici-

pate in something like this every year," said Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Davis, PAC Supervisor. "The food goes to a worthy cause."

Each 100 Can Club winner received a certificate signed by Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak and tickets for various drawings, i.e., the Phoenix Art Museum, the Actors Theater of Phoenix, the Phoenix Suns, the Phoenix Opera and the Phoenix Symphony.

*Century photo essay
turn to page 6-11.*

2 From the desk of the Adjutant General...

By Maj. Gen. David Rataczak

With the new century approaching, I feel that it is appropriate for me to share with you a few thoughts I have about the Arizona Army National Guard and our military force.

Now that the Y2K problems are behind us, I would like to tell you that I am very pleased with the readiness levels of all of our units. I am equally proud of the hard work being done by everyone in this environment of *doing more with less*. Everyday I hear stories about what soldiers and airmen are doing to meet mission accomplishment. Most of the stories go above and beyond the normal call of duty. I would like all of you to know that the 54 state Adjutant Generals are working very hard to increase full-time manning for the Army National Guard. In fact, it is our number one priority. You should also know that Congress heard the collective voice of the Adjutant Generals and the Enlisted and Officer Associations on this issue. They responded by increasing full-time support for the Army National Guard for this fiscal year. We will see some growth in our manning before the fiscal year is over. The shortage of full-time support personnel will continue to be a top priority. Hopefully we will see more growth in FY 2001. I also



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette

Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak visited soldiers of the 855th Military Police Company at the Florence Military Reservation training site on Dec. 4 to present awards and talk with the enlisted and junior officers. The soldiers of the 855 MP Co. were weapons qualifying.

believe you will see more improvement in quality of life, pay and other benefits for your service in the National Guard.

Most of you already know that my number one priority is readiness of our units to mobilize, deploy and accomplish our state and federal missions. You most likely have heard that one of my themes is to be more visible in our communities and add value to those communities whenever possible. You have responded with outstanding support. We are sponsoring school districts, providing mentors to young children, helping the homeless children, providing medical and engineer support to under-served communities, and assisting with many other

worthwhile programs. These are all great things to do because they not only add value to the people of those communities, but they also take *our story* to these same communities. We have a great story to tell about what we do and who we are. I am also interested in getting our legislature to give back the tax credit for members of the Arizona National Guard and to provide a uniform allowance for our young officers.

One last area I want to briefly talk about is our *armor-*

ies. Most of you know, some of our armories are in poor shape. We have made great strides in improving some of the facilities. We have done this with some innovative cost saving measures, as well as acquiring some increased revenue from outside sources. We will continue these efforts. You will soon see improvements in the places you come to for training.

Currently, we are working with two cities in the state to build new training centers. This will involve close coordination with these cities, the state legislature and Congress. Replacing old armories is a high priority with your Army leadership, and we will continue our efforts until we

Rataczak, see page 3



HELIOGRAPH

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Don't GO on green!

Capt. Ben Luoma, State Safety Officer

In the past few years, in front of the main gate at Papago Military Reservation on McDowell Road and Bushmasters Blvd. there have been several automobile accidents. Motorists, in these collisions, are making some very common mistakes.

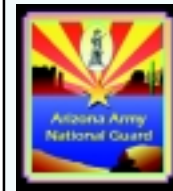
The first mistake is driving over the speed limit. Many motorists travelling east or west bound on McDowell Road are excessively fast for the inherent traffic and road conditions. When posted speed limits are exceeded car crashes always become serious. The second mistake is failure to stop. Combine this with excessive speed, and you now have a very deadly mixture of misfortune.

Remember that if you obey all posted speed limits and traffic signals, you are still vulnerable to an accident from those who don't! Failure to yield to oncoming traffic, even when you have the green light, is a traffic violation. How can we protect ourselves when moving through an intersection with the right-of-way? Wait! By pausing just a moment to ensure that all traffic is stopped, it will insure you and your passengers will not become the next mishap at the *Bushmaster* intersection.

Rataczak, from page 2
are successful.

I want to close by telling you how proud I am of all of you that work so hard to make your National Guard a great place to work. The year 2000 has been designated the *Year of the Family*. We want to make involving our families in more of our activities a high priority. Without the support of our families, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish what we do.

This will be the second year in a row that the Arizona Army National Guard has had soldiers in harms way



Spc. Stephen A. Miller
B Company, 1/285th
Aviation Battalion
Hometown: Tucson
"I envision a

complete virtual reality battlefield training scenario for Apache crews here at the WAATS (Western Army Aviation Training Site). Realistic training like that is going to further increase our readiness and help us continue to save resources."

Spc. Joshua D. Maestas
Service Battery, 2/180th
Field Artillery
Hometown: Phoenix

"Technology will help soldiers be combat ready. Soldiers will have to keep up with technology. Soldiers will be able to learn job skills better. Equipment will be up to date."

Pvt. John L. Fuller
Company E, 1/189th Aviation
Hometown: Phoenix

"I see technology helping us keep our advantage over opposing forces. Our unit will get newer helicopters and navigation systems. In the future, I imagine there will be special goggles repair personnel can wear while underneath the helicopter that can display information about parts."



How do you think technology will affect your unit's mission in the 21st Century?

Spc. Laura A. Miner
Detachment 7, STARC
Hometown: Scottsdale

"Medical innovations will change dental, sight and hearing examinations. The way we have done DNA has changed a few times already. It will make it easier to keep track of personnel information."

Spc. Robert E. Lynch, Jr.
258th Engineer Detachment
Hometown: Phoenix

"We have a lot of new equipment, and I see this helping retention. A lot of our operators have decided to stay in our unit because of what we have here, like the M917 Dump Truck with anti-lock brakes and the Pro-link 9000 diagnostic scan tool that helps us perform repairs."



Spc. Kirtis M. Hourscht
B Battery, 2/180th
Field Artillery
Hometown: Tucson
"Technology can help or hurt a

mission. Infantrymen are using M-4s with mounted cameras and computers that allow us to shoot around corners. Although we can shoot, faster, weapons like that require more training and maintenance. It's delicate technology for a rough mission."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette

Maj. Gen. David Rataczak speaks with an 855th Military Police Company soldier while visiting the unit.

4 From the desk of... the Assistant Adjutant General - Army

By Col. Richard G. Maxon

My intent is for the Arizona Army National Guard to be the best trained, led and equipped organization in the entire National Guard.

Key to Success: We must ensure that *SOLDIERS ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE* is more than a catchy phrase. It must be our way of life! We are nothing without our soldiers. The greatest training plans, logistics programs and emergency response plans are meaningless if we don't have soldiers to carry them out. Everything we do starts with soldiers. Everything else is irrelevant without them. We simply need to understand them and meet their expectations.

In other words, we need to live up to our end of the bargain. Soldiers expect to be given sound, well-planned training in their MOS; they expect to be paid on time; and they expect to be treated as an integral member of our team. The vast majority of our soldiers are bright young men and women who will rise to the occasion to achieve what is asked of them when given the opportunity and resources.

Command Guidance:

a. Safety: Safety is the most important consideration that must be integral to everything we do. If it isn't safe, we don't do it. Our business is inherently dangerous. We cannot allow ourselves to ever become complacent concerning safety. We are entrusted with the welfare of the husbands and wives, sons and daughters of our fellow citizens. Our highest obligation is to ensure that no one, soldier or civilian, is injured unnecessarily.

b. Communication: This area requires immediate attention. Necessary information is not getting into the hands of the people who need it the most. There is no assurance that communication has taken place without feedback. I am concerned that *e-mail* is used as a substitute for effective communication. We have developed a false sense that

communication has taken place because, "We *e-mailed* the message to the intended audience, therefore we have communicated." This assumption is untrue in too many instances. M-day soldiers must be firmly included in the information loop. Full-time personnel must always keep in mind that we exist for, and are here to serve, the M-day soldiers. It is **not** the other way around. Bottom-line, talk to soldiers. More importantly, listen to them.

"Everything we do starts with soldiers. Everything else is irrelevant without them."

c. Leadership: I believe we have lost the spirit and intent of *Sergeant's Business*. Our junior NCOs are **the center of gravity** of our corps. Sergeants and Staff Sergeants have the most contact with, and therefore, the most influence over our soldiers. Our junior NCOs impact directly on their desire to continue to serve in the Arizona Army National Guard. All NCOs must know, understand and live by the NCO creed. Further, platoon sergeants are responsible for ensuring the success of their new

lieutenants. I have directed that the Arizona Army National Guard will conduct a mandatory local course of instruction of Specialists and Corporals who are above the training line on the current STPA promotion list and all NCOs newly assigned to the Arizona Army National Guard. This course will teach our new Sergeants exactly what the Arizona Army National Guard expects of them as NCOs.

d. Training: According to the Soldier Survey, the number one reason for soldier dissatisfaction is poor training. The following training guidance will be followed:

- 1) Make training challenging, interesting and FUN.
- 2) Minimize training changes.
- 3) Don't waste our soldiers' time.
- 4) Conduct multi-echelon training with a focus on training at company level and below.
- 5) Red training periods will focus on *soldier maintenance*. As a minimum, the equivalent of one drill period per quarter (four hours) will be set aside for this task, OER and NCOER counseling and preparation, pay problems, school problems, will be addressed also during this time.

The Challenge, see page 5.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette

Col. Richard Maxon visited the soldiers of the 855th Military Police Company on Dec. 4 during their annual weapons qualifications at the Florence Military Reservation training site.

The Challenge, from page 4.

e. Community Involvement: The National Guard's strength is directly drawn from its link to the community. Maj. Gen. David Rataczak is committed to re-establishing our bond with the community leaders to ensure we are seen as a highly regarded, readily accessible community asset.

f. Environment: We will be good stewards of the environment. A lack of understanding or poor attitude toward environmental issues is inherently wrong and will quickly alienate the public.

g. Strength Maintenance: This is absolutely the most critical area and this is why I address it last. Recall that I addressed how important soldiers are to us up front as the single most critical **key to success**. We must care for each and every soldier and their families and their quality of life. Remember that our strategic objective is 5,000 active, drilling soldiers by the end of FY 2003.

The following policies apply in our efforts to achieve that goal:

- 1) Soldiers in the Arizona Army National Guard will be MOSQ; attending school; or scheduled for school.
- 2) All additional duty retention NCO positions **will** be filled. All additional duty retention NCOs will be trained.

They **will** perform those duties each and every drill. One additional paid training period will be provided to each of these NCOs each month so that they may carry out these duties.

3) First Line Leader Training will be

"A lack of understanding or poor attitude toward environmental issues is inherently wrong and will quickly alienate the public."

at the 95% level by January 31, 2000.

4) The sponsorship program is the first key phase of making a soldier and his family feel welcome and that they are part of our team. Every incoming soldier will be assigned a sponsor.

5) Quality of life issues that need constant attention include:

- a) ID cards, ID tags, commissary cards and uniforms must be obtained for the soldier at the earliest possible date. Without these items the soldier will feel like an outsider.
- b) Education benefits and bonuses must be paid in a timely manner.
- c) Soldiers must be on electronic funds transfer to be paid promptly.
- d) Strong family support programs

are vital. Those units with good family programs tend to rise to the top. Attendance is good, morale is good.

e) We are currently developing out-processing procedure for retiring M-Day soldiers. They should be given the opportunity to have a retirement physical to record any medical issues they may have to assist them in any potential VA claims. A retirement certificate, to be signed by either the Governor or the TAG, is to be designed and printed. These soldiers have given this state a many years of service. They should go out with some style.

Measurements: The following measurements will be tracked by me each month and will form the basis of a good portion of my evaluation of commanders. Additionally, I will be asking questions in these areas when I visit your units, and I expect the commanders to know the answers:

- a. Number of soldiers authorized.
- b. Number of soldiers assigned.
- c. Number of soldiers performing IDT each month.
- d. Number of soldier gains Year to Date.
- e. Number of soldier losses Year to Date.
- f. Number of discharges in progress.
- g. Extension rate.
- h. Number of soldiers drilling beyond ETS.
- i. Number of soldiers on the NOVAL pay report.
- j. Percent of leaders (E-5 and above) who have completed the First Line Leader's Course.
- k. Number of vacant or untrained additional duty retention NCO positions.
- l. Number of bonus soldiers assigned to non-bonus positions.
- m. Number of soldiers not on Electronic Funds Transfer.

TRICARE...the AGR concern

Story by Spc. Jalayna Herbert

AGR soldiers injured while on duty and referred to civilian specialists for treatment can spend more time getting well and less time worrying about timely insurance claim payments, thanks to a new U.S. Army Medical Command TRICARE initiative.

The initiative, according to *Soldiers* magazine, places financial penalties on civilian contractors who take more than 60 days to process authorized medical claims.

Although contracted civilian agencies now have additional reasons to pay claims promptly, it is still the primary responsibility of the soldier to start the claims process as soon as they receive a bill.

Sgt. Lisa Angelo, Benefits/Transition Coordinator for the Arizona National Guard cautions soldiers to take immediate action when billed for medical treatment. "Soldiers cannot assume that if the injury occurred while on active duty then payment for the injury will be automatically made to the care provider. When soldiers receive medical bills, they must do something about them."

AGR soldiers who have questions regarding medical bills can contact Sgt. Angelo at (602) 267-2453 or Tech Sgt. John Philmon of the 56th Medical Group, Luke AFB at (623) 856-3425. Soldiers in Yuma are in a different TRICARE region and can call toll-free (888) 242-6788.



COL RICHARD MAXON

Arizona military life. . . the tradition continues

*1999 Members
of the 416th
Air Traffic
Service
Company
receive
recognition
awards for their
peacekeeping
service
in Bosnia-
Herzegovina.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel.

Editorial by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel

In this edition of the Heliograph we highlight more than a century for the citizen soldiers of Arizona and the Army National Guard. As it has always been with our past; change, commitment and sacrifice will continue to be the clarions as we enter into the new millennium.

The history of the Arizona Army National Guard reflects the history of a young America carving out its future. It is in this history that it can be said the ARNG has been a vital link, and at times, the difference for American freedom and security. With present day *increased operational tempo*, the ARNG faces different challenges than that of our fore fathers.

"We simply cannot meet the goals of the national military strategy without them [reserve component]," according to James P. Desler, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. In the last decade there has been a 13-fold increase in active-duty days.

In the last decade, the number of men and women in military uniform has declined by one million, to 2.8 million. This decline represents a 700,000 drop in active military and a 300,000 drop in the National Guard and Reserves. In this same period, the Army has cut soldiers and civilians by 30%.

However, since 1990, there have been 93 major commitments for Americans in uniform from the Active, Reserve and Guard components. Army deployments since 1990 are up 300%. This has created a work load that impacts the Guardsman dramatically.

In these uncertain times one thing remains very clear, the ARNG soldier will have an active role in preserving the peace and will stand vigilant to the dangers facing the nation.

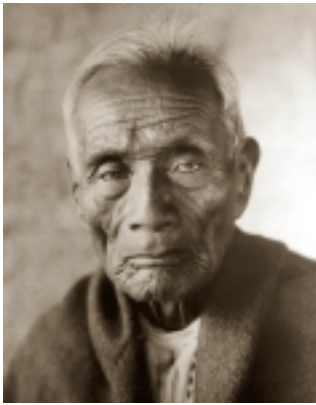
Currently, we are experiencing the fruits of a peacetime economy never before realized in this nation's history. Our children and grandchildren have access to opportunities that most of us never realized possible just ten

years ago. It is bitter sweet to know the youth of our country are learning more about the *computer revolution* than the American Revolution.

Ironically, this bounty was made possible by those who supported or wore an American military uniform. History demonstrates, without argument, our country's prosperity has always been insured by the blood of the American soldier.

Our nation now enters into the new millennium secured by the best equipped and trained soldiers in the world. As a soldier in the ARNG, you have every right to own a profound sense of pride for the role that you played in the making of this history.

This new century allows good reason for hope and cheer. Politics, budgets and work loads aside, soldiers know that the ARNG is more than a rank or job description, it is more than a weekend--it is truly a calling. To ARNG soldiers past and present, congratulations for a millennium well done--*hooah!*



1865 2nd Lt. Antonio Azul, Company C, First Arizona Volunteer Infantry, a Pima-Maricopa Native American.



1898 Spanish American War



1916-1918 World War I

Famous for their many exploits in the Far East Theater, Arizona was represented in World War II by the Bushmasters (below), the 158th Regimental Combat Team.



1948



1940

1940-1945 World War II



8

1950-1953 Korean War



1951, Nov. Pvt. James Lee, F Co., 2nd Bn., 19th Rgt., 24th Inf. Div., saw his tent bombed at Chun Chon, South Korea, during the Korean War



1955



1952 108th Army Band



1953 2/180th Field Artillery



1970 Staff Sgt. Steven L. Ford (Above), Vietnam, Charlie Rangers 75th Infantry Airborne.



1960-1974 Vietnam War



1968 Staff Sgt. David Germain (Above), Vietnam, A Battery, 3/16th FA, Hawk Hill Run.

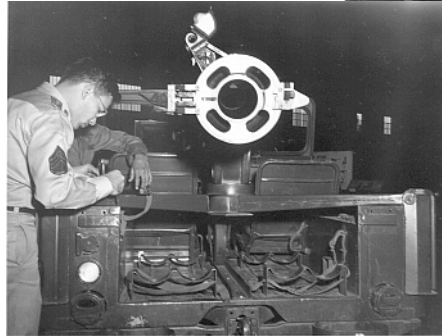
1979 A B





1966

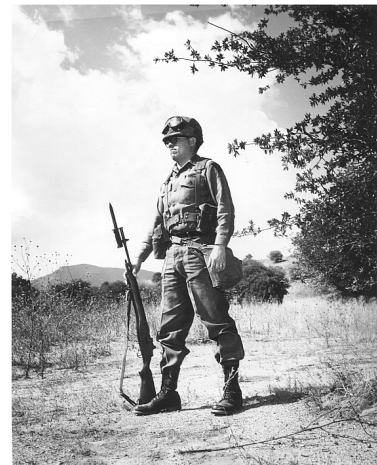
1960s



1983 A Battery, 2/180th Field Artillery



1970 108th Army Band



1970 M-1 Grand Rifle

attery 1/180th Field Artillery



1983 855th Military Police Company



1990 - 1991 Desert Storm

Ten Arizona units were mobilized during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; nine served in the Gulf War.

1991 Staff Sgt. Pat Hanks, with daughter, 416th ATC Platoon



1991 Pvt. Dorothy L. Hils, 1404th Trans. Co.



Welcome Home
1404th Transportation Company



Present

1999 158th Regional Training Institute - Hawaii



1998 257th Engineer
Company - Honduras



1998/9 123rd Mobile
Public Affairs
Detachment -
Bosnia-Herzegovina
and Alaska



1999 855th Military
Police Company



1999 Partnership for Peace - Kazakhstan



1999 852nd RAOC on the way to Macedonia



1998 C Battery, 2/ 180th
Field Artillery



OCS Class 40

12 2/180th FA implements new MTOE



Members of the 2/180th attended the training with the M198 at the Yuma Proving Grounds Yuma, Ariz. Left: Lt. Col. Mark Newman, Yuma Proving Grounds, Capt. Jeffrey Tipton, Headquarters 2/180th, Staff Sgt. Fernando Basurto, B Battery, Staff Sgt. Richard Burden, B Battery, Master Sgt. Reynaldo Careaga, Headquarters 2/180th, Staff Sgt. Daniel Gardner, B Battery, Sgt. 1st Class Kent Richardson, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, Spc. Aaron Dolan, Headquarters Battery, and Staff Sgt. Demian Castillo, B Battery.

By Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette

"Can you implement the new M198 MTOE by September 30, 1999?" asked Col. David Germain, 153rd Field Artillery Brigade commander, in November 1998.

After evaluations, reevaluations and draft plans, a final plan of action for implementing the modified M198 Howitzer weapon system in the modified table of organization and equipment for the unit was approved and set into motion. The MTOE establishes the number of personnel and type of equipment combat units require.

"Training with the new equipment went very smooth," said Master Sgt. Reynaldo Careaga, Jr., who developed a training plan that incorporated upgrade training and placing soldiers into new positions.

"Our soldiers looked at the new equipment (M198) and the new training as a challenge," said Careaga. "The battalion staff was impressed by the way the training worked out."

1st Lt. Alejandro F. Acosta, the S-4, began making inquiries back East as to the availability of rebuilt 155mm Howitzers in the depot. The rebuilt Howitzers began arriving in March 1999 two per flatbed truck. When they arrived, the guns looked brand new and were in excellent condition.

After being off-loaded, training on the new weapons systems began almost immediately. The M198s were fired for the first time in July, 1999. The training continued and culminated with a live-fire exercise in September, 1999.

During the live-fire exercise, A and C Batteries had three of their six M198s deployed to the field, while B Battery had all six of their M198s in the field for the exercise at the Florence Military Reservation.

There are six rebuilt M198s 155mm Howitzers assigned to each battery.

The live-fire exercise began on Saturday, Sept. 18. As each battery deployed to the Florence range, they began stationing their weapons systems for the live-fire mission. The firing began in the early afternoon and lasted well in to the night. After the mission was completed, a total of 225 rounds

had been fired, and of those rounds, 189 were high explosives, 12 were white phosphorus, and 24 were illumination rounds. The M198 155mm Howitzer is capable of firing a maximum of four rounds per minute, with a sustained rate of one round per minute. The minimum crew size to safely operate the weapon is seven, with the maximum (normal) crew being nine soldiers.

The brigade commander evaluated the exercise along with a number of external evaluators. The evaluators determined the readiness of the 2/180th to be certified as a Trained Combat Ready Unit with their rebuilt M198 weapons system.

"The battalion did really well on the evaluation and they are now certified as Combat Ready on the new MTOE, a full year ahead of schedule," according to Capt. Jeffrey Tipton. Tipton credits the certification success to the hard work of all of the members of the 2/180th, and especially to the key staff in developing the training programs and ensuring that the supply issues were resolved quickly.

Tipton also credits Germain for being the driving force behind the mission being completed a full year ahead of the scheduled September 2000 set by higher headquarters.



The modified M198 is a 155mm Howitzer newly introduced to the Arizona Army National Guard 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artillery. Both photos this page are courtesy of the Yuma Proving Grounds, Yuma, Ariz.

Soldiers sharpen skills during November FTX

By Spc. Lupe Covarrubias

The 158th Corps Support Battalion conducted a November Field Training Exercise at the Florence Military Reservation in preparation for the scheduled Battalion Brigade Simulation in 2000. The FTX provides an opportunity to evaluate unit readiness.

The units participating were Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 158th Corps Support Battalion, Company C, 111 Area Support Medical Battalion, 3666th Maintenance Company and the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

The primary mission of HHD was to establish the base cluster and provide command and control for the rest of the units.

In addition to command and control, the HHD conducted the 1999 Arizona National Guard Boss Lift.

C/111 ASMB conducted cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification and common task training. They also provided transportation for Boss Lift.

The 3666th Maintenance provided direct support for maintenance and food service. The food service personnel took the opportunity to practice for the upcoming Phillip Connelly award state competitions, according to Staff Sgt. Alexander Galadiz.



Above: Pvt. 1st Class Alex Camacho, 3666th Maintenance Company, Generator Mechanic, helps with the preparation of the evening meal during the field training exercise at Florence Military Reservation. Photo by Spc. Lupe Covarrubias. Left: Personnel of C/111th receive extensive training on topics such as smoke disease and CPR during the field training exercise at Florence Military Reservation. Photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel.



Felix Meza, Arizona Public Service, signals his approval of the view from a UH-60 Blackhawk.

Boss Lift: Employers learn about Army National Guard

Story and photo by Spc. Jalayna Herbert

Nineteen civilian employers of Army Guardsmen were airlifted Nov. 6 to the Florence Military Reservation to participate in the 1999 Arizona National Guard Boss Lift.

The Boss Lift enables civilian employers to experience hands-on military training.

The employers, dressed in BDU (battle dress uniform) top, Kevlar helmet and web belt, were given a pre-flight briefing before boarding helicopters heading to FMR.

At the site, they were given instructions in the wear of the protective mask, setup and tear down of camouflage tent covering, and operation of a Humvee. The reward for a hard day's training was an MRE, a meals-ready-to-eat package.

"The size of this operation is amazing," said Charles Dieman of Universal Propulsion Company and civilian employer of Sgt. Lawrence May, 3666th Maintenance Company. "Everyone seems to know exactly what they're doing."

Employers commented on the value of the realistic training and recommended participation in future boss lifts.

356th Signal creates radio link in Arizona

By Spc. Lupe Covarrubias

The 356th Signal Company conducted a joint operation with the 107th Air Control Squadron, an Arizona Air National Guard unit, and the 40th Signal Battalion, an active component unit, at the field east of Pettycrew Armory on Sept. 11 and 12.

"This is the first time this type of joint mission has been done on a weekend," said Sgt. 1st Class John W. Wierfeldt, multichannel radio operator.

The exercise linked the Tropospheric Scatter Multichannel Radio (TSSR) to the Arizona Air National Guard, two Arizona Army National Guard locations: Florence Training Site and Picacho Peak Training Site, and Davis-Monthan Air

Force Base, Tucson.

The TSSR uses microwave signals that follows the curve of the earth, according to Wierfeldt. The signals can be sent up to 220 miles. The TSSR is used as a backup link to the tactical satellite communication system.

Minor obstacles worked to the advantage of the participants by allowing them to work through the problems. On Saturday night, a lightning storm forced the operation to shut down temporarily. At another time, the connections with the Air Guard operator was disrupted.

"We accomplished what we set out to do," said Wierfeldt. "We are looking forward to a future joint operation in South Korea."



Photo by Capt. Robert L. Ditchey, II.

Guard presents ESGR award

On Sept. 20, Maj. Jorge F. Roca, commander, 158th Finance Battalion presented Miles Katz, Office Depot Business Services Division, a certificate of appreciation and lapel pin in recognition of his employer's support to the Arizona Army National Guard.

The certificate was issued by the National Committee for Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Katz was nominated by one his employees, Sgt. Chris G. Flamard of the 160th Finance Detachment.

855th Military Police excel at competitions 15

By Capt. Anastasia Stipe

Staff Sgt. Darrell Tucker and Sgt. Michael Masters, of the 855th Military Police Company, participated in the 1999 Winston P. Wilson National Championships held at Camp Robinson, Little Rock, Arkansas, on Sept. 11-18.

In the Sniper discipline, the Arizona team placed fourth, individually placing 8th and 15th, respectively. The team placed third in Match 690 Tactical Sniper Exercises consisting of a field training exercise that tested various field craft techniques including day and night land navigation, stalking, cold-bore shooting, target detection and range estimation. The match was also a test of endurance with the final event of the 24-hour exercise being a six-mile road march.

Masters, in his first year, won two individual awards in the Novice Class. He was Top Novice Shooter in Match 602 Field Fire Scope that consisted of engaging moving targets from 300-600 meters. In Match 606, Cold Barrel Engagement, he placed third in the Novice Class.

As a result of his skills and placement in recent matches, Tucker has been asked to shoot on the *All-Guard Sniper Team*, sponsored by National Guard Bureau. He also wears the Governor's Dozen Badge for marksmanship, a distinguished honor.

The accomplishments of Tucker and Masters are highlighted by the fact that their practice and preparation for the competition was done solely on their own personal time. Other states assign their teams to a marksmanship unit whereby their drill assemblies and additional training time consists of only practicing and preparing for the competitions. Our soldiers are leaders in the 855 MP Co. first, quietly conducting their practice without any fanfare or recognition.

Tucker travelled to Colorado on Nov. 30, to meet and begin practicing with the individual he has been partnered with for the upcoming match held Dec. 3-10, 1999, at Fort Carson.



Above: Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak congratulates Sgt. Michael Masters for winning at 1999 Winston P. Wilson National Championships. Below: Soldiers of the 855th MP Co. received awards for heroism from Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak. The unit was at Florence Military Reservation weapons qualifying. Photos by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette.



Soldiers honored for selfless heroism

By Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette

The 855MP Company was visited by Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak, The Adjutant General, on Dec. 4, while the unit was at the Florence Military Reservation training site weapons qualifying.

Rataczak presented Army Achievement Medals to four soldiers who helped the lives of civilians involved in a vehicle crash on Sept. 11 while

enroute to Flagstaff for training.

Staff Sgt. James Hummer, Sgt. Lee Cowser, Spcs. Walter Birmingham and Raymond Selvyn witnessed a head-on collision on I-10 in Goodyear, that claimed the lives of three individuals. Before the arrival of the police and fire departments, they risked their own safety by extracting a victim from one of the automobiles and provided traffic control on the highway to prevent

further accidents.

They received a letter of commendation from the Goodyear Fire Department for their quick reaction.

In addition, Col. Richard Maxon, the Assistant Adjutant General - Army presented two soldiers with Appreciation Certificates and T-Shirts for the volunteer participation in the Wilson School Clean-up project.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette

Tempe Councilman Hughe Hallman presents certificates of appreciation to members of the 3666th Maintenance Company for their participation in the Habitat for Humanity Cleanup project.

3666th Maintenance receive recognition

By Spc. Brian Kelley

In a ceremony on December 4, Tempe City Councilman Hughe Hallman presented certificates to eight soldiers of the 3666th Maintenance Company for their assistance on a November 13 Habitat for Humanity Cleanup project.

The soldiers used some of the company's heavy equipment. The soldiers were helped by boys from the Arizona Boy's Ranch. Together they cleaned up a residential lot in Tempe so Habitat for Humanity can begin building a new house on the site. These soldiers also received Certificates of Appreciation from Richard Erdmann, the Director of the East Valley Habitat for Humanity.

The soldiers who were recognized for their service to the community were:

Sgt. 1st Class Ron Kingsley, Sgts. Paul Cochran, Quentin Tyler, Kristan Gunter, Spcs. Robert Pacheco, Elias Moran, Louis Jenkins and Pvt. Ralph Bertmeyer.

1st Sgt. (Retired) George Poland was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Poland received the award for his exceptional service as 1st Sgt. at the 3666th Maintenance Company and for over twenty-five years of military service.

Filling Poland's vacated position, Master Sgt. Conrad Zapata was promoted to 1st Sgt. in a ceremony attended by his wife Julie-Marie, Command Sgt. Maj. Ruben Gonzales, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Holmes, Capt. Robert Moscarello and his wife Joanne. The 3666th also promoted Spc. Andres Lopez to the rank of Sgt.

OCS Class 40 lays wreath at Pearl Harbor Memorial

Story and photo by Spc. Jalayna Herbert

On December 5 the Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate Class 40 performed a Military Customs and Courtesy Ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Hawaii.

At the memorial, Candidate Russell W. Gibson read aloud an account of the December 7, 1941 attack written by his grandfather, a Pearl Harbor survivor. All candidates then dropped roses and carnations on the waters just above the sunken USS *Arizona*.

"I had been hearing my grandfather's story since I was five years old," recalled Gibson. "I was honored to tell it here."

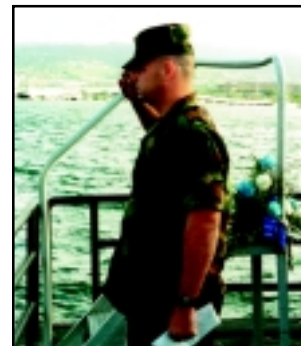
"It's still a very intense experience," remarked Candidate Mauro Quevedo, who was visiting the memorial for the second time.

In addition to conducting the ceremony, the candidates accomplished the mission planned for the December drill weekend.

"Weekend drills for these candidates go non-stop from 6:00 p.m. Friday evenings until 5:00 p.m. Sunday after-

noon," explained 1st Lt. Steven B. Poteat, TAC (Training, Assessing and Counseling) Officer at the Regional Training Institute. "We added a *mock mobilization* into the training to let candidates see what a unit deployment entails."

Air support for the trip was provided by the Phoenix-based Air National Guard 161st Air Refueling Wing.



The Heliograph

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